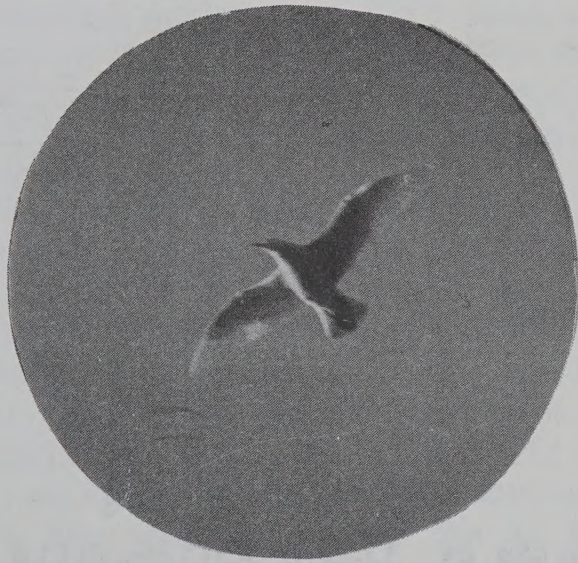


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REPULSE BAY/
NAUJAA, N.W.T.

1973

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Vignette:

Seagull (Esk. naujaa) above Naujaa Inlet east of
Repulse Bay, N. W. T.

September 2, 1973

Text and photos by Ludger Müller-Wille

Data given in this pamphlet were collected by the
author with the help of the Inuit of Repulse Bay
between August and December 1973 (author's stay and
work supported by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)

Printed in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
February 1974

R e p u l s e B a y is a small Inuit settlement at the northern shore of a bay with the same name (location: $66^{\circ} 32' N$, $86^{\circ} 15' W$). The settlement as it is today developed out of a Hudson's Bay Company trading post (since 1921) and a Roman Catholic Mission (since 1933). Inuit from areas around these posts moved to the place and settled there permanently. It was not until the Federal Government started a housing program in 1963 that all Inuit families came to Repulse Bay. In 1959 the settlement had 145 inhabitants, by August 1973 there were 230 Inuit and 14 Kabluna. The population is very young - 58 % are under 15 years of age.

Since 1963 the Government built 63 buildings in the settlement including residential houses, school, power house, workshops, warehouses and tanks, community hall, reefer, administration office, and transient centre. An airstrip and radio beacon is maintained since 1969. Scheduled flights come in from Fort Churchill, Man. once a week. Besides these government buildings there are a nursing station, the Hudson's Bay Company store, the R. C. Mission, and the Naujat Co-op store with handicraft enterprise. Communication with the "outside" is done by four local radio sets. Besides airplanes goods are also brought in by ships in September and October depending on the ice conditions. Local transportation is done by snowmobiles, motor boats, and rather seldom today by dogteam. In October 1973 there were 60 snowmobiles, 31 motor boats, and some 60 Inuit dogs in the settlement. Some other vehicles are employed for water delivery, garbage disposal, transportation of goods, road and construction work.

The Inuit of Repulse Bay rely on various sources for their income and living. There are some jobs in the settlement (Government, HBC, Co-op), but hunting is still predominant. Some 2,500 animals and several thousand pounds of fish were taken by 50 persons in 1972/73. Inuit hunters took 1,300 common seals, 30 bearded seals, 10 walrus, 23 white whales, but no narwhale, and about 600 caribou. Besides the quota of 16 polar bears various numbers of wolf, fox, arctic hare, ptarmigan, and occasionally 2 or 3 wolverines are caught either by hunting or trapping. These resources supply meat and cash income for the hunter.

Hunting is done on snowmobiles and with motor boats. The 50 hunters owned some 160 rifles and fired close to 50,000 rounds during the course of 1973.

Repulse Bay is a growing settlement and very much in transition since new technological items and different ideas reached this place. This requires adjustment and flexibility on the part of both Inuit and Kahluna. The impact of the "Outside" is felt in all aspects of life. The ability of the inhabitants of Repulse Bay to grasp this changing situation is admirable.

This little pamphlet with its pictures was put together as a way to express our thanks to the people of Repulse Bay for the nice time my family and I spent among them between August and December 1973.

Taima.

Ludger Müller-Wille

Ludger Müller-Wille

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
26 January 1974



September 3, 1973

About a mile east of the settlement there is a large complex of 21 houses; their walls consist of sod, stone, and whale bones. The complex called Nauja lies 40 feet above the current sea level and is considered to be some 700 to 800 years old. Therkel Mathiassen and his helper Olsen dug some of these houses in summer 1922. The Nauja site is one of the most impressive archaeological places in the Canadian Arctic.

(cf. Therkel Mathiassen: Archaeology of the Central Eskimos. Part I, Descriptive Part. Report of the 5th Thule Expedition 1921-24. Vol. IV, 1. Copenhagen 1927.)



View from the east on the central part of Repulse Bay settlement. In the centre one-room houses, to the left and right three-bedroom houses. The oil tanks show in the upper right corner.

August 11, 1973



Kringayark's summer tent at the "Mission Beach". Two of the four "whaling boats" in the settlement are still on the beach. - The bay is often filled with drift ice even during August.

August 8, 1973



Sealift in September and October is a busy time for Repulse Bay. Besides crates of food and construction material airplane fuel in barrels is unloaded by the hundreds. The earth cellar in the background was built by the mission in the fifties and is used for storing meat during the summer.

Persons from left to right: Angotingoar, Tegumiar, Oksokitok, Pat Moore, Milortok, M. P. Tungilik.

September 14, 1973



People greet relatives and friends coming in a flight by DC-4 from Pelly Bay. People from Repulse Bay often pay visits to Pelly, Bay, Hall Beach, and Igloolik where they had relatives and friends.

September 23, 1973



Paul Mablik (left) and his two younger friends
explore the beach in the settlement.

(Picture taken by one of their friends)

August 7, 1973



Rosalie Nanorak (left) and Ragnar Müller-Wille
concentrate on their toys at home.

December 2, 1973



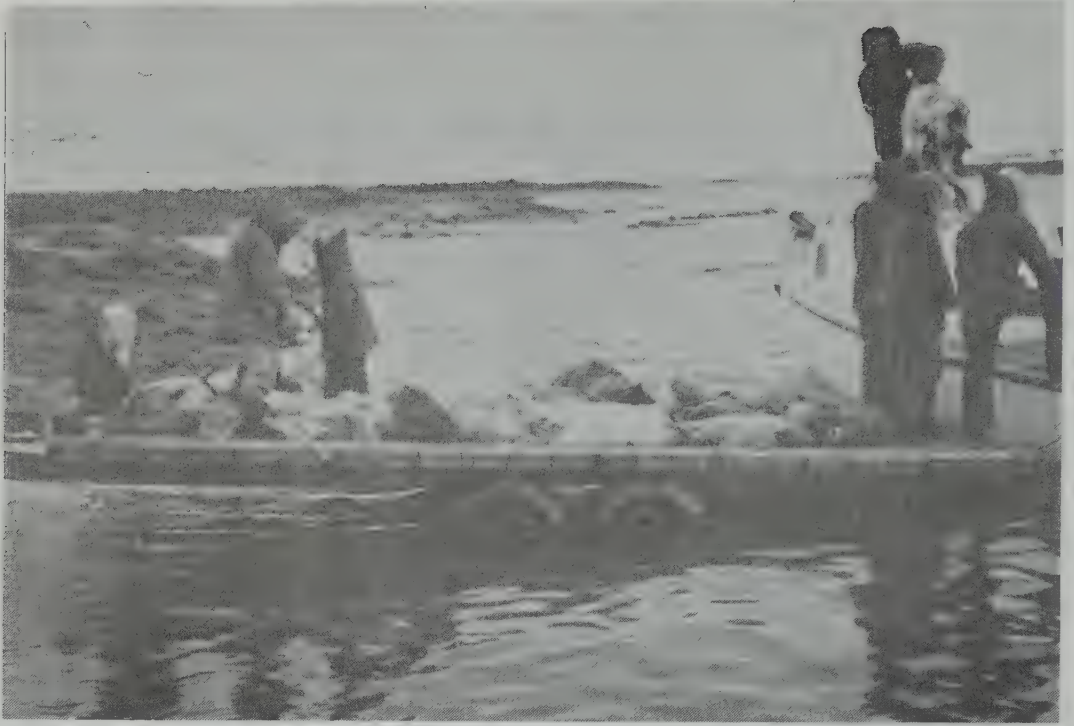
In spring 1973 three wolf puppies were caught alive and taken to the settlement. This is Tavo's wolf which was tied up at his house. People like to have young animals around the house since children can learn more about them that way. The three wolves were later taken to zoos in the "south".

August 20, 1973



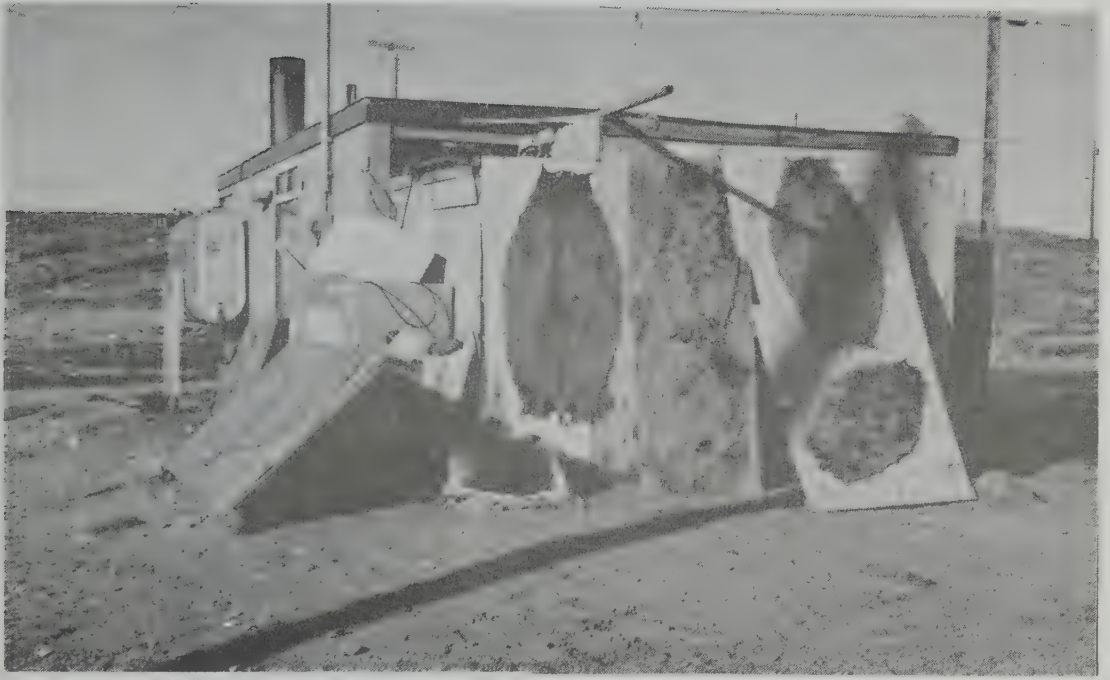
David Nuluk's dogs are about the last to be put in front of a sled. Here they are chained down at the beach in the settlement and usually fed seal meat. In summer most of the sled dogs stay on islands. In October 1973 there were 62 Inuit dogs and 14 Kabluna dogs in the settlement.

October 14, 1973



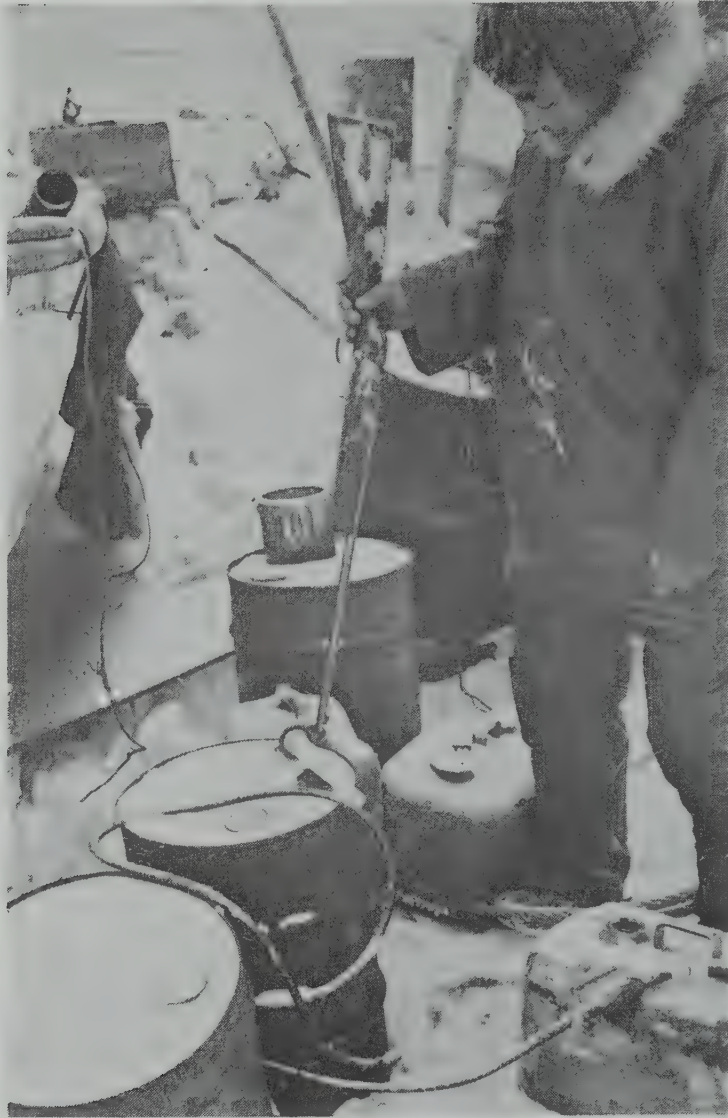
On October 1, four brothers - Putulik, Mablik, Siatsiak, and Michel - left by boat to hunt polar bears. They went east of Hurd Channel (Subluk), some 90 miles from Repulse Bay, and shot five polar bears, two walrus, and some caribou. Here their catch is unloaded on a trailer from the boat.

October 8, 1973



Almost everybody tries to get out on the sea to hunt seals during the summer. Tuktudjuk had a successful day; nine seal skins are drying in front of his house. In the centre lies a caribou hide; caribou were close to the settlement almost all year round.

September 13, 1973



Mixing of gas is an important factor in using an out-board motor boat. Here Kringayark uses the barrel of the gun to stir fuel and oil into the right mixture. There were 31 boats and motors in use during the summer of 1973. Trips were mostly done inside the bay of Repulse, but some went as far as 100 miles from the settlement.

October 21, 1973



Travelling in an open boat is not always pleasant. Rain, snow, wind are often hazards during trips. Here Kringayark takes his dogs back to the settlement from the islands where they stayed all summer. Fuel consumption for one outboard motor reached on the average 110 gallons during the summer of 1973 - July to early October. Repairs are usually rather seldom with motors and costs are therefore lower than with the snowmobile.

October 21, 1973



Iglus are still built regularly during hunting trips in the winter. The means of transportation is the snowmobile which came to Repulse Bay in 1967. The snowmobile wears out fast and has to be replaced almost every year. The average fuel consumption for a snowmobile was 225 gallons per driving season - October to Juni, or a distance of 1,500 miles.

This is a campsite at Angmalukto Lake some 70 miles northeast from Repulse Bay. David Nuluk, Johannesey Tinashlu and the author went out to set fox traps and a net besides hunting caribou.

November 29, 1973



D. Nuluk and J. Tinashlu repair a track wheel at Angmalukto. Snowmobile repairs have to be done frequently; the average expense is some \$ 350 per winter. Sleds are self-made; the cost of material (wood, steel runners, rope) runs up to \$ 100. In October 1973 there were 52 sleds, 18 of those from the pre-snowmobile time.

November 29, 1973



Caribou meat is a staple food for the people of Repulse Bay today. Only since a few years the Melville Peninsula caribou herds come close to the settlement. In 1973 hunters could shoot them only some 10 to 20 miles outside the settlement all year round. The meat is utilized for food, the hides for clothing and the antlers for carvings and tools.

D. Nuluk with wounded caribou at Kareark.

November 28, 1973



D. Nuluk and J. Tinashlu prepare for butchering a killed caribou at Kareark.

In recent years there seems to be a surplus of caribou meat in the Repulse Bay region. Efforts to export meat to place where there is no caribou made some progress. The possibilities of the development of controlled selective hunting for an export market should not be neglected in the near future. This could be a small source of additional income for the local population. This certainly could lead to avoiding waste of valuable meat resources.

November 28, 1973



There are two stores at Repulse Bay - Hudson's Bay Company and Naujat Co-op - both are retail stores and also deal with fur. The Co-op only differs to the extent that it encourages sales of local products (carving, meat, fish, whale skin, etc.) to the Co-op. These items are marketed either locally or outside the settlement.

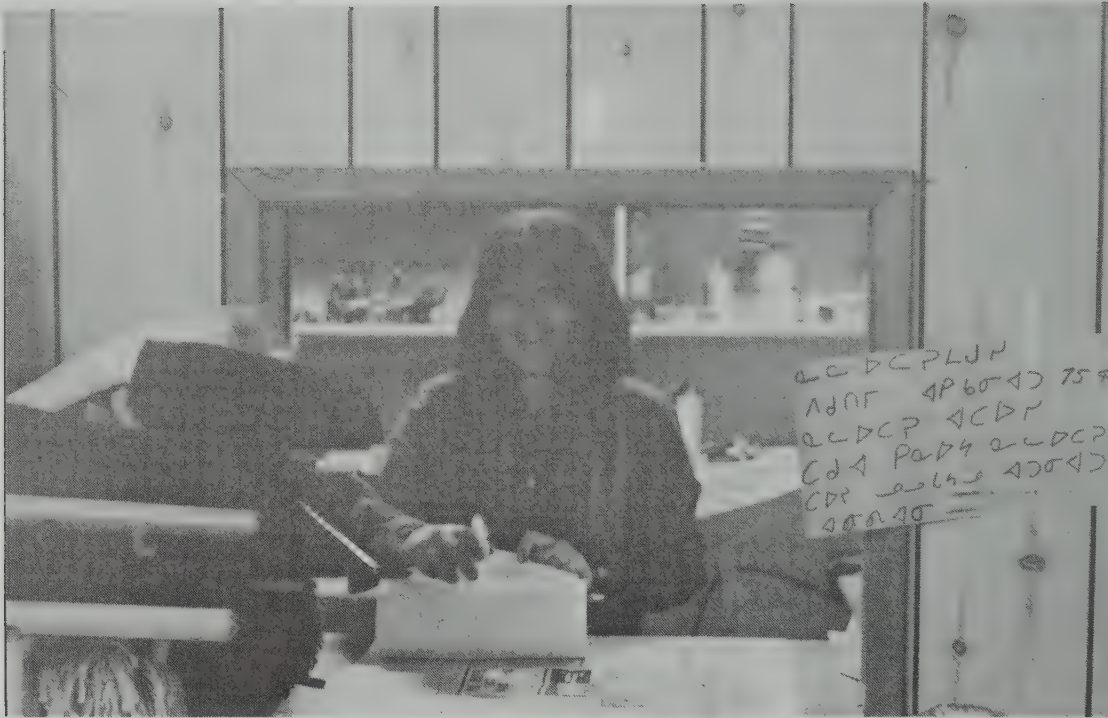
People inside Co-op store.

December 7, 1973



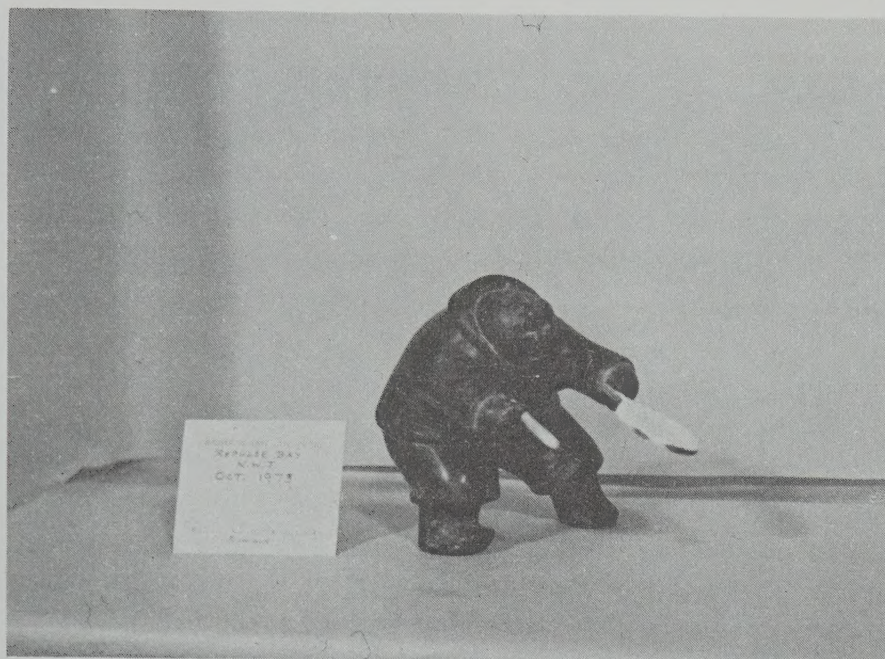
Like Lucy Tavo (centre) other Inuit fill available jobs in the stores and government institutions in Repulse Bay.

December 7, 1973



Simona T. Kringayark is in charge of the carving section of Naujat Co-op. Local carvers hand in their carvings here and are paid right away in cash. The Co-op ships the carvings to the south for sale.

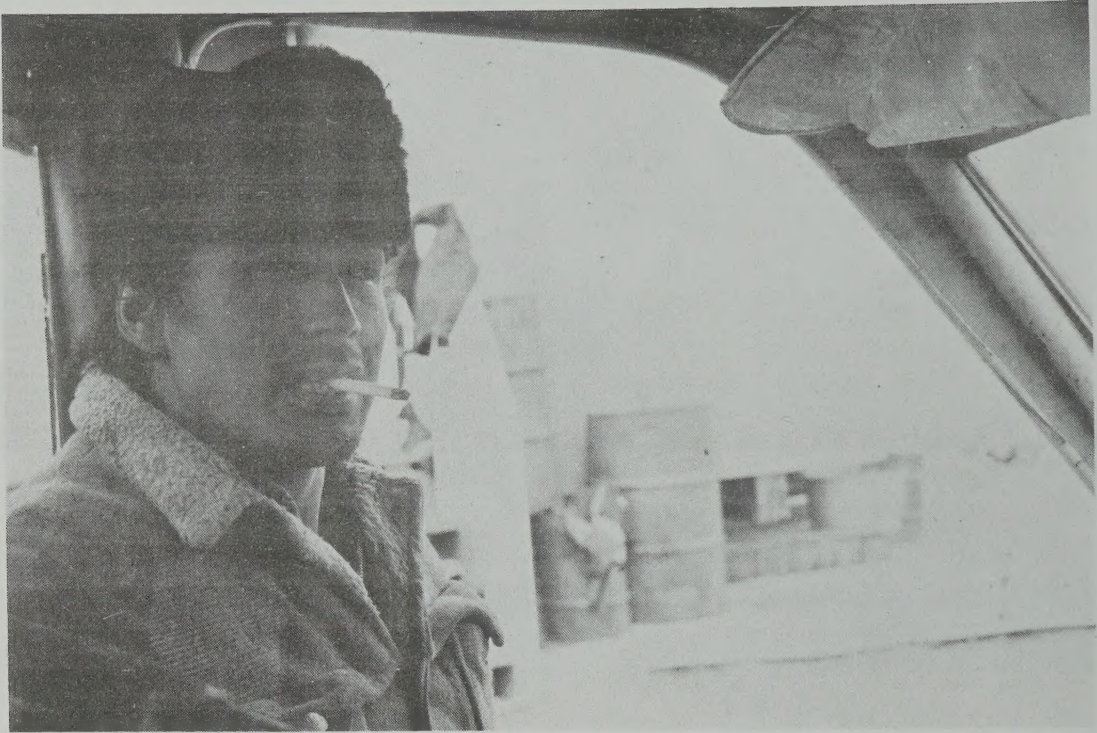
December 7, 1973



The Inuit of Repulse Bay are known for their broad variety of carvings. The carving industry is certainly a very important factor in the local economy. Carvers are constantly on search for carving material; soap-stone of different kind and quality is mined in various places up to 70 miles distant from Repulse Bay. Mining is usually done in late winter. Besides, the stone, caribou antlers, whale bone, and walrus/narwhale tusks and teeth are collected as carving material.

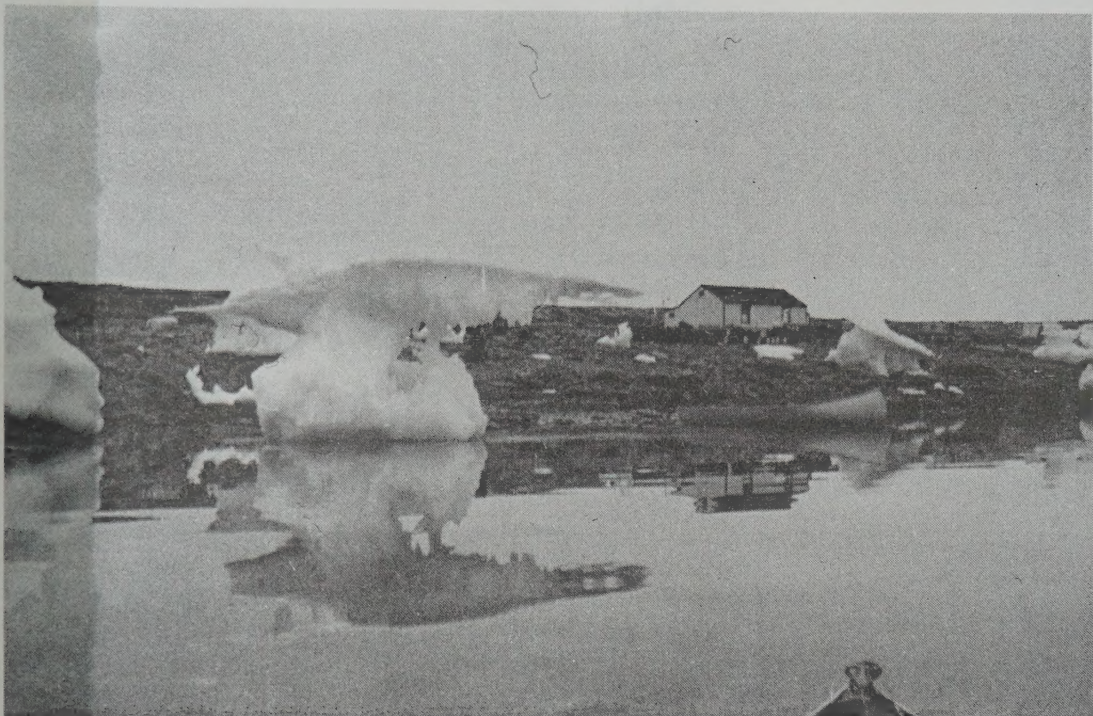
Carving by unknown carver, Naujat Co-op.

October 11, 1973



Donat Milortok relaxes over a cigarette in his track vehicle which he uses to haul garbage to the dump a mile northeast of Repulse Bay. Disposal of garbage is one of the most serious problems in the fragile environment of the arctic.

September 10, 1973



"Mission Beach" with warehouse; the low tide water left some huge ice blocks stranded on the beach for a few hours.

August 4, 1973



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